

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE RURAL LOCAL BROADCAST SIGNAL ACT OF 2000

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague from Virginia, Congressman RICK BOUCHER, to introduce crucial legislation that will have a significant impact on the lives of millions of Americans, especially those who live in smaller cities and towns, on farms and throughout rural areas. This legislation will ensure that community information such as local weather forecasts, natural disaster alerts, and local government announcements reach those who needed it most.

Our legislation, entitled the Rural Local Broadcast Signal Act, would accomplish these goals by authorizing the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to provide loan guarantees to entities that can obtain the private funding to launch technologies that will provide local TV signals over satellite in the medium sized and smaller TV markets. Through these loan guarantees, the RUS will continue its mission of promoting economic development and improving the lives of rural Americans while fulfilling the original intention of legislation enacted last November—to enable all Americans to receive their local television signals over satellite.

I was proud to be a member of the conference committee on the recently enacted Intellectual Property and Communications Omnibus Reform Act of 1999, which included language to allow direct broadcast satellite providers to immediately begin retransmitting local television broadcast signals into the broadcast station's area, subject to a retransmission consent agreement negotiated with each station carried. This new law allows satellite providers to become more effective competitors to cable operators, who have been able to provide local over-the-air broadcast stations to their subscribers for years. It will also benefit American consumers in markets where local TV via satellite is made available by offering them full service digital television at an affordable price.

More importantly, these consumers will benefit from local news, weather reports, information such as natural disasters or community emergencies, local sports, politics, and election information, as well as other information that is vital to maintaining the integrity of communities across the country.

Local TV via satellite is already available to satellite subscribers in America's twenty largest television markets. In these markets DirecTV and Echostar, the existing satellite "platform providers," have begun retransmission of affiliates of the ABC, CBS, NBC, and FOX broadcast networks. DirecTV and Echostar have also announced their intention to begin retransmission of local TV stations in an additional twenty or thirty television mar-

kets over the next 24 months. Ultimately, the two existing satellite "platform providers" will provide local TV via satellite to households in most, if not all, of the 50 largest television markets in the United States.

However, there are 211 markets in the United States and in excess of 100 million U.S. TV households. There, if matters are left solely to the initiative of the existing satellite "platform providers," more than 50 percent of existing satellite subscribers (over 6 million households) will continue to be deprived of their local TV stations; more than 60 percent of existing commercial television stations (over 1,000) will NOT be available via satellite; and more than 30 million US TV households will remain beyond the reach of local TV via satellite.

Put another way, local TV via satellite will not be available in 27 states and in parts of nearly every state.

So while the law enacted last fall has eliminated the legal barriers to delivery of local TV via satellite, it alone will not assure delivery of local TV via satellite to the majority of local TV stations and satellite subscribers. For that reason, and because many folks in parts of my district and in the districts of most members on this Committee cannot receive their local signals any other way, I am joining with RICK BOUCHER, JOANN EMERSON, and over 100 Members of the House in supporting this legislation to assure that all Americans, not just those in profitable urban markets, can receive their local TV signals over satellite.

STRAIGHT SHOOTER: SHERIFF CHARLIE PLUMMER

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, for the past 13 years, California's Alameda County has been blessed to have a tough, hard-working, straight-talking sheriff named Charles Plummer.

The January 2, 2000 issue of The Argus carried an excellent profile of this outstanding public servant, that I would like to submit, in part, in the RECORD. It is a model for those interested in law enforcement and public service throughout the nation.

I would like to especially commend Sheriff Plummer for his stance on gun control and the need for reasonable regulation. I am proud to note that this has been an issue that has moved him from the Republican party to the Democratic party.

CONTROVERSIAL ALAMEDA COUNTY SHERIFF
CHARLIE PLUMMER OFTEN TALKS TOUGH,
BUT HE ALSO WALKS THE WALK

(By Josh Richman)

A framed photo on Alameda County Sheriff Charles Plummer's office wall depicts him shouting at someone behind a police crowd-control line. The caption: "'Cause I'm the

sheriff, that's why. If you don't like it, get outta here!'"

That's Charles Clifford Plummer to a T. He'll hear your concerns, take suggestions and perhaps even follow them, but never forget he's the boss.

The affable-but-tough-talking lawman has carried a badge for 37 years and, at age 69, shows little sign of slowing down. His department's main duties include policing the county's unincorporated areas, running the county jails and coroner's bureau, and protecting county courts.

Plummer also is a sharp-dressed, number-crunching CEO who runs his 1,650-person-strong, \$145.7 million agency like a business. He has a taste for pricey cigars, and he donned a tuxedo rather than a uniform for his swearing-in ceremony. He rules from a 12th-floor corner office choked with international police memorabilia and boasting panoramic vistas of Lake Merritt and the hills.

Some of his deputies accuse him of tyrannical bullying, but most officials and fellow lawmen praise his bluntness.

"He is old-school in the sense that when he gives his word, he keeps it," California Attorney General Bill Lockyer said, adding that Plummer's post as president of the California Sheriff's Association "is an indication of the high regard that other elected sheriffs have for his leadership and abilities."

VALUES AND WORK ETHIC

Plummer was born Aug. 17, 1930, in Fort Bragg. His parents separated when he was six and he grew up in his maternal grandmother's home, where he said he learned "values and a work ethic that have been with me forever."

He was on high school football, track and basketball teams, performed in the band and drama club, and was senior class president. He took a job as a water well-digger at age 10; while in school, and at Santa Rosa Junior College, he worked as a gardener, shingle mill worker, lumber, camp rigger, apple picker, construction worker, vacuum cleaner salesman and hospital attendant.

He planned to become a mortician, but a California Highway Patrol officer picked him up hitchhiking and talked him into using his gregarious nature and large size to advantage as an officer.

The Berkeley Police Department was "the best in the United States, and that's why I wanted to go there," Plummer said, adding that it seemed like "the West Point of all police work." He joined in 1952 and served there for 24 years, acting as field commander during some of the fiercest student demonstrations and riots of the 1960s and early 1970s. He reached the rank of captain in 1969 and was appointed acting chief in 1973.

He became chief of the Hayward Police Department in 1976. Ten years later he ran for sheriff, and his opponent's withdrawal from the race led to his uncontested election. He took the department's reins in January 1987, the first outsider to hold the job in more than 40 years.

CHANGING THE DEPARTMENT

Plummer promised to dismantle the department's "old boy network" by replacing favoritism with the work ethic, and by threatening dire consequences for deputies who lied, used racist or sexual slurs, accepted gratuities or took drugs.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

He also set about having the department accredited by as many agencies as possible, believing it would bring increased efficiency, better eligibility for state and federal grants and more protection from civil lawsuits.

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies accredited his department. The American Correctional Association and the National Committee on Correctional Health Care accredited his jails. The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors accredited his crime lab, and the U.S. Department of Justice accredited his bomb squad. The certificates hang in his office lobby, tokens of his proudest achievements.

Earning accreditation is like ridding a home of termites, he said—it's expensive up front, but you do it to save money later. Even so, he often has had to go toe-to-toe with other county agencies to vie for dollars.

Plummer has fought budget battles with the same intensity he brought to controlling riots on Berkeley's streets. He once threatened to close North County Jail rather than cut investigators, crime prevention and animal control. In 1996, asked to trim \$6.9 million from his budget, he instead asked for \$3 million more. "I can't afford to cut one person, so why go through the charade?" he asked at the time.

He doesn't always win. The 1992-93 budget required 300 layoffs, and Plummer had to pink-slip a whole academy class—his lowest moment, he said.

"That hurt me worse than the riots hurt me in Berkeley," he said. "It just tore my heart out. We have warned them it could happen, but that doesn't make it any easier when you're having a graduation and you can't give them badges."

After proclaiming it a "chainsaw massacre," he mustered a crowd, hefted a chainsaw and marched around the courthouse to protest state funding cuts. A penciled caricature of Plummer revving a chainsaw near a courthouse hangs on his office wall.

The budget crunches spurred Plummer to view his department as a business. Assuming that a fully-staffed jail is an economically efficient jail, he sought more contracts to house other agencies' inmates in Alameda County. Plummer's jails have held San Francisco county inmates, state parole violators, federal prisoners from U.S. Marshals in California and Hawaii, and illegal immigrants from the federal Immigration and Naturalization Service.

He acknowledges that those and other contracts, such as providing security for county hospitals and other facilities or events, create a lot of overtime. But his budget always covers it, he noted: "I've never brought in a budget in the red in my life."

He has positions for 920 sworn deputies, 37 of which are now vacant. He hired San Leandro Police Chief Robert Maginnis as an assistant sheriff last August specifically to recruit. Some said Maginnis was being groomed as a likely successor, but Plummer said Undersheriff Curtis Watson already has earned that mantle by paying his dues within the department.

"Also, I would never support anyone who would not agree to give at least two terms," he said, because he believes a sheriff needs at least eight years to be an effective leader.

REPUBLICAN NO MORE

Plummer ended his lifelong GOP membership in June, reregistering with a "no party" designation. Why?

"Guns," he said.

As sheriff, he enacted new requirements for concealed firearm permits—a demonstrated need, a psychiatric exam, \$1 million of liability insurance and qualification at the sheriff's shooting range. State Sen. Don Perata,

D-Alameda, who earned a permit, wants to include such mandates in a plan for statewide licensing and registration for gun owners. Plummer approves, explaining, "we're not really anti-gun, we're pro-gun-responsibility."

But when he heard U.S. Rep. Bob Barr, R-Georgia, speak on the radio against gun control earlier this year, he had an epiphany.

"I thought, 'I don't want my name associated with that crap,'" Plummer said.

He would rather associate with his wife of 51 years, Norma, their three children—two of whom followed him into law enforcement—and eight grandchildren. He also associates with the Boy Scouts, the Rotary and other groups, which he called "great therapy for me"—talking to people outside his work helps him avoid "burnout" after so many years of policing, he said.

His current term will expire in three years, when he's 72; whether he runs again "will depend on how I feel." He admits he'll be "a little long in the tooth," but a recent physical found him fit, and close aides have agreed to tell him if they think he's slowing down.

"If I think I'm taking anything away from this organization, I'm outta here," he said.

HONORING THE DELRAN HIGH SCHOOL SWIM TEAM

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Delran High School swim team for winning its third straight South Jersey Championship and second straight state championship. The Delran swim team dynasty is an excellent example of high school athletes performing at their peak level.

Seldom does a team win a championship, even more rare are back to back championships. It takes extraordinary teamwork, dedication, and perseverance to become a championship team. I applaud the Delran High School swim team's efforts.

I would also like to recognize the following Delran swim team members: Mike Haigh, Steve Kroculik, Rachel Craft, Danielle Hoey, Jenny Kroculik, Karl Scheimreif, Gerall Tieman, Michelle Aleszczyk, Karlee Scheimreif, Jen Tregl, Lauren Schmidt, Danielle Kennedy, Brandon Peer, Craig Tieman, Anne Kennedy Caitlyn Hoey, Ryan Hannon, Pat Reynolds and Joey Iannuzzi.

Perhaps the most important role of any team is that of the one played by the coach. Delran's coach, Michael Kennedy, molded and trained this formidable championship swim squad. Coach Kennedy's efforts cannot be overlooked and should be commended.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating this special group of individuals. Their efforts have brought pride to their community, families and high school.

RE-REFERRAL OF S. 1809

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today S. 1809 was re-referred to the Committee on

Commerce and in addition the Committee on Education and the Workforce. Titles I and III have been traditionally in the sole jurisdiction of the Committee on Commerce and Title II, Family Support, has been traditionally in the sole jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. Title II, Family Support, would authorize a program that was originally created in Section 315 of P.L. 103-382, Improving America's Schools Act of 1994, which created a new Part I in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. In 1997, Part I, Family Support of IDEA was repealed by Section 203(a), Repealers, of P.L. 105-17, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997. See H.R. 5, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997.

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve our community. The Fairfax Chamber of Commerce is hosting the 22nd Annual Valor Awards today, Friday, February 11, 2000. The Chamber will recognize law enforcement and emergency response personnel for their acts of bravery. A Valor Award is the highest honor Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety employees.

The Valor Award recipients are selected by a committee that designates honorees for a Lifesaving Award, a Certificate of Valor, or a Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal of Valor. This year, it is expected that 37 agency personnel will be honored for acts of bravery that demonstrated extraordinary ingenuity, judgment, or zeal.

Mr. Speaker, I would be honored today to read the names of the 17 men and women of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department who will receive the 1999 Valor Awards. Receiving the Lifesaving Award: Firefighter Barry J. Rathbone and Lieutenant Paul A. Masiello; Certificate of Valor: Lieutenant Robert E. Wheeler and Firefighter Joseph M. Laun. Bronze Medal of Valor: Technician William M. Best, Captain I Vincent R. McGregor, and Technician Kurt A. Hoffman; Silver Medal of Valor: Dr. Joseph Barbera, Captain Robert C. Dube, Master Technician Michael A. Istvan, Lieutenant Joseph E. Knerr, Technician Evan J. Lewis, Dr. Anthony Macintyre, Technician Glenn A. Mason, Technician Michael J. Stone, Technician Rex E. Strickland, and Master Technician Jack L. Walmer.

In 1989, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce established a special fund to award scholarships to the children of Valor Award medal winners who wish to pursue post-secondary education. Support of the Scholarship Fund demonstrates the sincere appreciation of our County's public safety officers. Over the past ten years, more than one hundred generous businesses and individuals have contributed to this worthy fund, and numerous scholarships have been awarded.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish to thank all those who serve the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Since 1979, more than 250 members of the Fairfax County Police Department, Fire and Rescue Department and the Office of the Sheriff have received Gold, Silver or Bronze Medals of Valor. I recognize the professionalism of the men and women who are honored here today. I applaud the heroic efforts the members of the Fairfax Fire and Rescue make on our behalf as we extend our appreciation to these exceptional individuals today. I commend these individuals and their colleagues for their undaunted commitment to the citizenry.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
ENTITLED, "FAMILY VALUES
TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2000"

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced legislation, H.R. 3612 that will repeal certain hidden taxes imposed on our American families and values.

In his latest report to Congress, our country's National Taxpayer Advocate, W. Val Oveson, urges us to eliminate hidden taxes in the Internal Revenue Code. The National Taxpayer Advocate, unlike any top official at the IRS or Treasury, reports his findings and recommendations directly to Congress without review or revision within the agency or department. In one of our greatest legislative achievements, the "IRS Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998," Congress strengthened the National Taxpayer Advocate's independence from the IRS in order to help address taxpayers' concerns.

The National Taxpayer Advocate can now recommend legislative changes to the tax code in cases where current law creates inequitable treatment or where change will alleviate barriers to compliance. For the second year in a row, Mr. Oveson has reported that tax code complexity tops the list of taxpayer concerns. Accordingly, the National Taxpayer Advocate has singled out two hidden taxes in the Internal Revenue Code that should be repealed.

The first of these hidden taxes is the "phaseout of itemized deductions and personal exemptions." With regard to this hidden tax on our American families and values, our country's National Taxpayer Advocate states that "[n]o other tax issues are taken so personally. As a result, the phaseouts of itemized deductions and the personal exemptions are often seen by taxpayers as being especially unfair, creating a certain amount of resentment and cynicism. "[A]llowing all taxpayers to retain these deductions and exemptions would go a long way toward reducing burden, increasing fairness, and restoring faith in the tax system."

The second of these hidden taxes is the "Alternative Minimum Tax" or AMT. With regard to this hidden tax on our American families and values, our country's National Taxpayer Advocate describes the AMT as "unnecessarily complex and burdensome," effectively operating "as a separate or 'parallel' tax system with many rules that differ from the reg-

ular tax system." Many taxpayers are required to make several computations just to see if they must figure out their tax under the AMT. Additionally, AMT presents significant compliance and administrative problems for the IRS. Finally, many taxpayers are subject to the AMT "without being aware of its existence. Often, the way that many individuals first hear of the Alternative Minimum Tax is when they received a notice from the IRS. Outright elimination of the Alternative Minimum Tax would do a great deal for simplification and burden reduction of the tax system (emphasis added)"

I strongly support the work and conclusions of the National Taxpayer Advocate. My bill will repeal both of these hidden taxes on American families and values.

Additionally, my bill will go one step further and repeal another hidden tax—the phaseout of the Child Tax Credit. In 1997, Republicans in Congress enacted legislation to return \$500 in tax credits for every child under the age of 17. Unfortunately, budget constraints and opponents of this pro-family idea forced us to phaseout the Child Tax Credit in a complicated and unfair manner. We should not penalize any family who chooses to have children. All children should be treated equally as they are in the eyes of their Maker. Consequently, my bill will repeal this arbitrary hidden tax on American families.

Finally, these three hidden taxes also worsen the marriage penalty. The American Institute of Certified Public Accounts (AICPA) has listed these three hidden taxes in its list of "ways the tax code may drive up a tax bill when a married couple files together." It is just not right that our tax code forces married couple to pay more in taxes than two people living together.

I urge my colleagues to join me in repealing these hidden taxes and restore freedom to American families.

THE ONLINE PRIVACY
PROTECTION ACT OF 2000

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a bill I introduced, H.R. 3560, the Online Privacy Protection Act of 2000. This bill would protect Internet consumers by ensuring they are informed when a website operator is collecting personal information about them, and further providing a process for consumers to "opt out" of allowing companies to use their personal information for marketing and other purposes.

We all know the Internet is one of the most exciting and explosive developments of our time. In fact, many people have called the advent of the Internet the second Industrial Revolution. With the explosion of E-commerce in America and around the world, people are buying everything from food to stocks over the Internet. To allow this exciting sector of our economy to reach its true potential, I believe we must ensure that consumers privacy is not neglected in the process.

There is absolutely no question that the Internet is one of the most valuable and fastest growing forces in our economy. Along with the Internet and so many other advances in

technologies, it is easier than ever before to collect information and data and send it around the world with a simple click of a mouse.

As a result of the growth of the Internet and the ease with which website operators have the ability to collect information, it is important that all the players in the Internet industry take proactive steps to protect their consumers. If this is done effectively by the industry itself, perhaps legislation will not be needed.

While the Internet grows at a breathtaking pace, so do consumer concerns about their privacy online. I have heard from many of my constituents in writing, by e-mail, by telephone and at town hall meetings on this issue. Quite frankly, they are shocked by the reports about information being collected about them without their knowledge, let alone the frightening reports that much of the information that is collected is not secure. We do not want consumers to lose confidence in the Internet.

Consumers should have the opportunity to know what information is collected about them, how it is collected and for what purposes. Net surfers want and deserve assurance that personal information that is provided at a website is not misused. That is what H.R. 3560 would do without curtailing the exciting growth and potential of the Internet.

LEGISLATION MODIFYING THE
SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, throughout my 25 plus years in Congress, I have been a very strong supporter of the school lunch program. It was one of the highlights of my career when we passed the William F. Goodling Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act of 1998 last Congress. To build upon all the great work we have done, today I am introducing legislation to modify the school lunch program to ensure that recent cuts made to the program are restored.

During its history, the National School Lunch Act has not only provided nutritious meals to our nation's children, it has assisted the agriculture community through commodity purchases.

The Secretary of Agriculture uses funds authorized by the School Lunch Act to purchase entitlement commodities, such as fruits and vegetables, which are needed by our nation's schools in order to provide balanced meals. In addition, schools receive bonus commodities that the Secretary purchases in order to reduce a surplus in the marketplace. Both the children and the agriculture community benefit from these purchases.

Since the 103rd Congress, 12 percent of the cost of school lunches was to be in the form of agricultural products purchased for schools. Last session, this law was modified at the suggestion of the Clinton Administration to allow the 12 percent commodity requirement to be met through a combination of entitlement and bonus commodities. The savings achieved as a result of this revision were used to help fund the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999. As a result, schools will be receiving fewer commodities because

bonus commodities will be counted as part of the 12 percent commodity requirement rather than as additional commodities over and above this requirement. At the same time, purchases of agriculture commodities will also be reduced.

Mr. Speaker, there are no winners here. Schools lose, kids lose, and farmers lose. The bill I am introducing today will restore the original 12 percent commodity requirements and clarify that the only commodities to be used to fulfill this requirement are those authorized under the School Lunch Act. The Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 should not have been funded at the expense of an important program like the School Lunch Act.

For our children, our schools and our farmers, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor those of the Fairfax County Police Department who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve our community. The Fairfax Chamber of Commerce is hosting the 22nd Annual Valor Awards today, Friday, February 11, 2000. The Chamber will recognize law enforcement and emergency response personnel for their acts of bravery. A Valor Award is the highest honor Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety employees.

The Valor Award recipients are selected by a committee that designates honorees for a Lifesaving Award, a Certificate of Valor, or a Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal of Valor. This year, it is expected that 37 agency personnel will be honored for acts of bravery that demonstrated extraordinary ingenuity, judgement or zeal.

Mr. Speaker, I would be honored today to read the names of the 22 officers of the Fairfax County Police Department who will receive the 1999 Valor Awards. Receiving the Lifesaving Award: Police Officer First Class John E. Alford, Police Officer First Class Timothy C. Benedict, Second Lieutenant Michael E. Proffitt, Police Officer First Class Michael Twomey, Police Officer First Class Jeffrey L. Gossett, Sergeant Bruce K. Blechl, Police Officer First Class Scott C. Bates, Police Officer First Class Ronald H. Burke, and Police Officer First Class Aniello A. Desantis; Certificate of Valor: Police Officer First Class John R. Chadwick, Police Officer First Class Frank J. Stecco, Public Safety Communicator III Wrentree S. Kelly, Sergeant Mark S. Culin, and Police Officer First Class Christopher M. Kindelan; Bronze Medal of Valor: Auxiliary Police Officer Gary D. Treadway, Police Officer First Class Robert M. Cornell, Police Officer William A. Giger, Master Police Officer James D. Call, Lieutenant Scott C. Durham, Second Lieutenant Jack T. Hardin, and Police Officer First Class Donald E. McAuliffe; Silver Medal of Valor: Master Police Officer Robert Wahl.

In 1989, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce established a special fund to

award scholarships to the children of Valor Award medal winners who wish to pursue post-secondary education. Support of the Scholarship Fund demonstrates the sincere appreciation of our County's public safety officers. Over the past ten years, more than one hundred generous businesses and individuals have contributed to this worthy fund, and numerous scholarships have been awarded.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish to thank all those who serve the Fairfax County Police Department. Since 1979, more than 250 members of the Fairfax County Police Department, Fire and Rescue Department, and the Office of the Sheriff have received Gold, Silver or Bronze Medals of Valor. I recognize the professionalism of the men and women who are honored here today. I applaud the heroic efforts the members of the Fairfax Police Department make on our behalf as we extend our appreciation to these exceptional individuals today. I commend these individuals and their colleagues for their undaunted commitment to the citizenry.

TRIBUTE TO GENEVA BERRIEN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Brooklyn's finest entrepreneurs, Geneva Berrien.

A native of Texas, Mrs. Berrien migrated to Brooklyn, New York after spending several years in Chicago. She worked for Gimbel's Department Store before pursuing a career in hat design. She graduated from McDowell School of Design in 1948 after completing a course in millinery design. Geneva became one of Brooklyn's most popular and outstanding milliners known for her unique designs throughout New York State and the nation. It was not a "Hat Show" until "Geneva's Originals" were shown. "Geneva's Millinery Shop" was opened in 1950 and remained a lucrative business until 1968 when she decided to operate from her home on a part-time basis. Even today, her hats are still being worn and are just as stylish as when Geneva created them.

Geneva Berrien is also known for her long service as a member of Cornerstone Baptist Church which she joined in 1947. She was active in the Victory Club and the Business and Professional Women's Division of the Missionary Society. Additionally, she served as a teacher in the Cornerstone Vacation Bible School; she participated as a Board Member of the Isaiah Whitehurst School and the Cornerstone Day Care Center. Geneva also was a faithful member of the Senior Choir and Chairlady of Women's Day in 1964. As a member of the National Council of American Baptist Women, she received citations for outstanding Christian work in the church and the Standard Leadership and Curriculum Card for her involvement in Christian Education Week activities in 1970, 1972, and 1975.

Please join me in honoring one of Brooklyn's pioneering businesswomen, Geneva Berrien.

HONORING MARCUS HOUSTON OF DENVER

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Marcus Houston, a young student from Thomas Jefferson High School in Denver who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service to his community. Mr. Houston was named one of Colorado's top honorees in the 2000 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Marcus developed the "Just Say Know" program that educates middle level students about what is necessary to succeed academically, socially, and athletically in high school. Noticing the numbers of fellow students who were ineligible for participation in athletics due to poor grades or conduct, Marcus developed a motivational presentation based on his own successes. The "Just Say Know" program demonstrates how a student's personal presentation can influence his or her performance both in school and on the field. In addition to his motivational speeches, Mr. Houston developed an essay contest, which he funds out of his own pocket, that encourages students to write about what success means to them and how they plan to personally succeed.

Mr. Houston should be extremely proud to have been selected from such a large group of volunteers. I heartily applaud him for his initiative in seeking to make his community a better place to live, and for the positive impact he has had on the lives of others. Marcus has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. His actions show that young Americans can and do play important roles in our communities and provide us with tremendous promise for the future.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TATTNALL SQUARE ACADEMY ONE ACT PLAY, GISA STATE AAA CHAM- PIONS

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Tattall Square Academy drama students and director Brent Young for recently winning the GISA State AAA title for their One Act Play production Children of Eden. This fine group of young people from Macon, Georgia, located in the 8th Congressional District, deserves great recognition for their hard work, artistic talents, and success.

Tattall has won the GISA State AAA title for One Act Play for the last two years, in 1998 and 1999, and this marks the third consecutive year Tattall has won the Region Title for One Act Play.

Drama Director Brent Young was awarded 1999 Best Director at the November competition. Over the past few years, under his direction and leadership, Tattall's drama program

has grown to become one of the school's largest extracurricular activities with over 200 students involved.

One hundred twenty-five students performed in this year's production. In addition, I would like to recognize Molly Stevens, who was awarded the State Award for Best Performance. I had the opportunity to see Miss Stevens perform just a few short years ago in one of Macon's community theaters, and there was no doubt then she was a rising star.

Mr. Speaker, to be an actor or performer, one must connect with their audience, a talent that does not come easily to everyone. It takes dedication, concentration, focus, and a great deal of spirit and imagination. Obviously, these tasks were well-delivered by the young men and women from Tattall Square Academy. I am sure each of them is blessed with a number of other talents as well. I look forward to many more winning performances in the future.

H. CON. RES. 247 IN SUPPORT OF
NATIONAL DONOR DAY

HON. CHARLES T. CANADY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support important legislation to encourage organ donation introduced by my friend and colleague from Florida, KAREN THURMAN. I've been pleased to work with Representative THURMAN not only on this bill but also on legislation to provide Medicare transplant recipients with coverage for the immunosuppressive drugs they need.

Each day more than 70,000 people await an organ transplant, and one more individual is added to their ranks every 16 minutes. Tragically, as a consequence of the shortage of donor organs, more than 10 people die every day. Despite recent advances in medicine, transplantation is still a crucial part of prolonging human life. Transplantation is not an experimental science; it is the standard method of treatment for many diseases, with success rates as high as 95 percent. Just one donor can help more than 50 people in need.

For the past two years, a coalition of health organizations have joined together to designate a National Donor Day to highlight the need for organ donation. I am encouraged by the success of these first two National Donor Days. A total of almost 17,000 units of blood was raised; the names of 2,400 potential donors were added to the National Marrow Donor Program Registry; and tens of thousands of organ and tissue pledge cards were distributed. It is my hope that the third National Donor Day on February 12 will bring help to even more people in need. Representative KAREN THURMAN has drafted legislation to lend the support of Congress to National Donor Day's goals. It is a straight-forward, non-controversial bill that can truly help educate the American people about this crucial issue.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and encourage all Americans to learn about the importance of organ, tissue, bone marrow, and blood donation.

A TRIBUTE TO CARL R. CAMPBELL

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Carl R. Campbell, who made significant contributions to his community in the field of education. As Superintendent of the Kings Canyon Unified School District in Reedley, California, he made great strides in improving reading instruction for students in order to meet the state's goal of every child becoming a successful reader by the third grade.

Mr. Campbell was born in Abilene, Texas on January 15, 1942. He received his undergraduate degree at California State University, Fresno majoring in Political Science. Upon graduation, he began teaching business and government classes at Clovis High School. He quickly took a leadership role at Clovis High, serving as advisor for the Student Council and coaching the junior varsity basketball team for several years. Realizing that he enjoyed being in a position of leadership, he earned a Masters of Education in Educational Administration and went on to become the principal of two elementary schools in Clovis.

After several years as principal, Mr. Campbell was ready for a new challenge. In 1987 he became the assistant superintendent of Kings Canyon Unified School District in Reedley, California. In 1995, he became the Superintendent of the district. As superintendent, Mr. Campbell had a vision to improve reading instruction for students in the district. His vision included Reading Recovery Training for teachers, private-public school partnerships, and a new teacher training facility.

On Friday, December 17, 1999, the Carl R. Campbell Education Center was dedicated in honor of his service to the district. The training facility will serve to provide literacy training for teachers, as well as in-classroom coaching experiences. A major role of the facility is to accelerate student learning.

Carl Campbell was diagnosed with cancer in August of 1999 and passed away this week, on February 7, 2000 at the age of 58. He is survived by his wife and best friend of 34 years, Jayne; daughter and son-in-law, Jill and Mike Murphy of Washington, DC; son and daughter-in-law, Bret and Tianna Campbell of Fresno; parents, Fred and Daphna Campbell of Fresno; and brother and sister-in-law, Hollis and Margie Campbell of Fresno.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Carl R. Campbell for his tremendous contributions to education in Fresno County. Carl's friendship and leadership qualities will be dearly missed by his family and his colleagues in education.

WADE THOMAS SR., TUSKEGEE
AIRMAN

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Western North Carolina and America lost a

true hero last week when Wade Thomas Sr., a Former Tuskegee Airman, passed away.

WADE THOMAS SR.

ASHEVILLE—Wade Hamilton Thomas Sr., 77, of 2 Marcell Circle, died Sunday, Feb. 6, 2000, at Mountain Area Hospice.

A native of Jackson, Miss., he was a son of the late Harrison Spurgeon and Lolor Bandy Thomas. He was a graduate of Pearl Senior High School in Nashville, Tenn., and Tennessee State University, where he graduated with honors. He completed post-graduate study at Indiana Central University and the University of Tennessee.

Wade enlisted in the Army and was a member of the famed "Tuskegee Airmen," an all Black fighter squadron. His professional career included employment with the State of Tennessee, U.S. Post Office and U.S. General Services Administration. He retired from USGSA as a buildings manager, Region IV, Atlanta. In Asheville, he worked as a management consultant, accountant and real estate broker for over 30 years.

He was active in many professional and civic organizations including the National Association of Public Accountants, N.C. Housing Commission, Asheville Board of Adjustments, Asheville Civil Service Board (vice chair), Daniel Boone Boy Scout Council, Asheville Board of Realtors (vice president), Asheville-Buncombe Human Relations Council, YMI cultural Center (treasurer) and Asheville Optimist Club. Wade was a member of the Basilica of St. Lawrence.

Wade was a proud member of several fraternal and masonic organizations including Venus Lodge No. 62 F&AM, Gizeh Shrine Temple No. 162, A.E.A.O.N.M.S., Asheville Consistory No. 253, Daughters of Esther No. 128 OES PHA and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He received numerous awards and certificates of service for his professional, civic and masonic service.

Surviving are his wife, Mary Katherine Scruggs Thomas, who worked very closely with him both as a realtor and an accountant; seven sons, Wade Jr. (Ora), Karl, Harrison, George, Kenneth, Rex and Axel, all of Nashville; three daughters, Korda (Don) Henry, Renae and Michelle Thomas, all of Nashville; 11 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; a daughter-in-law, Stephanie S. Thomas; two cousins, Claudyne Jefferson and Carlotta (Joe) Morton; other relatives and many friends.

I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN
OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor those of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Department who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve our community. The Fairfax Chamber of Commerce is hosting the 22nd Annual Valor Awards today, Friday, February 11, 2000. The Chamber will recognize law enforcement and emergency response personnel for their acts of bravery. A Valor Award is the highest honor Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety employees.

The Valor Award recipients are selected by a committee that designates honorees for a

Lifesaving Award, a Certificate of Valor, or a Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal of Valor. This year, it is expected that 37 agency personnel will be honored for acts of bravery that demonstrated extraordinary ingenuity, judgement or zeal.

Mr. Speaker, I would be honored today to read the names of the 3 officers of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Department who will receive the 1999 Valor Awards. Receiving the Lifesaving Award: Private First Class David L. Ross and Deputy Sheriff Charles E. Michael, Jr.; Bronze Medal of Valor: Deputy Sheriff Erin L. Cox.

In 1989, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce established a special fund to award scholarships to the children of Valor Award medal winners who wish to pursue post-secondary education. Support of the Scholarship Fund demonstrates the sincere appreciation of our County's public safety officers. Over the past ten years, more than one hundred generous businesses and individuals have contributed to this worthy fund, and numerous scholarships have been awarded.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish to thank all those who serve the Fairfax County Sheriff's Department. Since 1979, more than 250 members of the Fairfax County Police Department, Fire and Rescue Department, and the Office of the Sheriff have received Gold, Silver or Bronze Medals of Valor. I recognize the professionalism of the men and women who are honored here today. I applaud the heroic efforts the members of the Fairfax Sheriff's Department make on our behalf as we extend our appreciation to these exceptional individuals today. I commend these individuals and their colleagues for their undaunted commitment to the citizenry.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
CHARLTON COUNTY HIGH
SCHOOL INDIANS, 1999 CLASS A
STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Charlton County High School football team in Folkston, Georgia, for recently capturing the Class A State Championship title. This fine group of young men and their coaches from Georgia's 8th Congressional District deserve great recognition for their hard work, dedication, and success.

This is not only a victory for these fine young men, but for their school, parents, and community as well, particularly all who played a role in supporting the team throughout a hard year of practices and games.

I want to congratulate CCHS head football coach Rich McWhorter and assistant coaches Bill Pitt, Mike Baxter, Mike McNeil, Russ Murray, Josh Howard, Dee Barronton, and Tim Cochran for their leadership and dedication to the team. Coaches spend every day of their lives building character, integrity, and determination in our young athletes, and I want to commend them for their commitment and service.

I also want to take this time to recognize the Charlton County Indians individually. The 1999 players are Steve Smiley, Kevin Davis,

Marcus Cobb, Snapper Hobbs, Cortez Reed, Cecil Reed, Matt Albertie, Fielding Dean, Antwan Harvey, Bama Adams, Mark Smith, Walter Williams, Jamie Jackson, Muhammad Abdullah, Jerome Pollock, Frank Dasher, Anthony Haston, Antonio Harvey, Lamar Williams, Harold Hannans, Lanier Milton, Alex Zow, Dantonio Davis, Chip Jackson, Tim Todd, Pierre Sims, Nathaniel Davis, Jason Bridges, Vincent Green, Nahshon Nicks, Chris Davis, Brian Drury, Demario Austin, Ivory Smiley, Marquis Elmore, Brett Mitchell, Gene Wilson, Norris Woods, Cedric Mildton, Brian Lloyd, Justin Crumbley, J.D. Carter, Jason Wainwright, Spencer Crews, Tony Geoghagan, Ben Huling, Michael Spurlock, Brandon Drury, Dusty Phillips, Luke Gowen, Scott Woolard, Ben Brantley, Marcus Jackson, Kyle Cook, Sam Melton, Scott Davis, Dusty Thomas, Jarvis Blackshear, Justin Pollock, Jimmy Scipp, Matt Drury, and Michael Reed.

Mr. Speaker, victory cannot be achieved without the hard work, talent, and perseverance of every single athlete, the strong leadership and direction of the coaches, in addition to the strong support of parents, teachers, students, and the community. We from South Georgia know how important community support is. The Indians are truly a team to be proud of, and it is an honor for me to represent Charlton County, Georgia, in the U.S. House of Representatives. I look forward to many more victories from this outstanding team in the years to come.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF
1996

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, four years ago this week, the Congress approved the Telecommunications Act of 1996. While I was not a Member of Congress at that time, I was working on these issues while I was in the Colorado state legislature. On the anniversary of the Act, I would like to both herald the progress that has been made and comment on what challenges remain.

One of the main goals of the 1996 Act was to allow more competitors into local phone markets in order to spur competition and provide better opportunities for consumers. The introduction of competition into the local markets has been much slower than anticipated and, at this time, over 90% of Americans have very little choice of local telephone providers.

The ultimate goal of course is greater competition in all markets, which will result in more choices and better prices for consumers. Many new companies, many of which are located in my home state of Colorado, have sprung up in the past few years and have gained a significant foothold in the exploding business of e-commerce. Nearly a billion dollars are being invested by new entrant telecommunications companies in facilities and services every month.

Today, more than ninety-nine percent of Americans can reach an Internet Service Provider (ISP) with a local phone call. Forty-six states have 100 or more ISPs and more than half of the states have over 200 ISPs to choose from. These ISPs connect into back-

bone providers which have also grown from fourteen at that time the Act was passed, to forty-three today.

This growth has been remarkable and has benefited consumers enormously. It is important that the pro-competitive provisions of the 1996 Act are kept in place so that we can keep moving towards a fully integrated and competitive market.

I am strongly in favor of increased competition in all areas of telecommunications, which will mean better service and lower prices for customers. The sooner there is more competition in both local and long-distance telephone markets and the Internet industry, the better it will be for all consumers. I look forward to the day when my constituents have a multitude of choices in all areas of telecommunications, whether it be voice or high-speed data services.

PHARMACEUTICAL ACT OF 2000

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Pharmaceutical Freedom Act of 2000. This legislation ensures that millions of Americans, including seniors, have access to affordable pharmaceutical products. My bill makes pharmaceuticals more affordable to seniors by reducing their taxes. It also removes needless government barriers to importing pharmaceuticals and it protects Internet pharmacies, which are making affordable prescription drugs available to millions of Americans, from being strangled by federal regulation.

The first provision of my legislation provides seniors a tax credit equal to 80 percent of their prescription drug costs. As many of my colleagues have pointed out, our nation's seniors are struggling to afford the prescription drugs they need in order to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle. Yet, the Federal Government continues to impose taxes on Social Security benefits and limits senior citizens' ability to earn additional income by reducing Social Security benefits if a senior exceeds the "earnings limitation." Meanwhile, Congress continually raids the Social Security trust fund to finance unconstitutional programs! It is long past time for Congress to choose between helping seniors afford medicine or using the Social Security trust fund as a slush fund for big government and pork-barrel spending.

Mr. Speaker, I do wish to clarify that this tax credit is intended to supplement the efforts to reform and strengthen the Medicare system to ensure seniors have the ability to use Medicare funds to purchase prescription drugs. I am a strong supporter of strengthening the Medicare system to allow for more choice and consumer control, including structural reforms that will allow seniors to use Medicare funds to cover the costs of prescription drugs.

In addition to making prescription medications more affordable for seniors, my bill lowers the price for prescription medicines by reducing barriers to the importation of FDA-approved pharmaceuticals. Under my bill, anyone wishing to import a drug simply submits an application to the FDA, which then must approve the drug unless the FDA finds the drug is either not approved for use in the U.S.

or is adulterated or misbranded. This process will make safe and affordable imported medicines affordable to millions of Americans. Mr. Speaker, letting the free market work is the best means of lowering the cost of prescription drugs.

The Pharmaceutical Freedom Act also protects consumers' access to affordable prescription drugs by forbidding the Federal Government from regulating any Internet sales of FDA-approved pharmaceuticals by state-licensed pharmacists. As I am sure my colleagues are aware, the Internet makes pharmaceuticals and other products more affordable and accessible for millions of Americans. However, the Federal Government has threatened to destroy this option by imposing unnecessary and unconstitutional regulations on web sites which sell pharmaceuticals. Any federal regulations would inevitably drive up prices of pharmaceuticals, thus depriving many consumers of access to affordable prescription medications.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to make pharmaceuticals more affordable and accessible by lowering taxes on senior citizens, removing barriers to the importation of pharmaceuticals and protecting legitimate Internet pharmacies from needless regulation by cosponsoring the Pharmaceutical Freedom Act of 2000.

TRIBUTE TO LOS ROBLES BANK

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Los Robles Bank headquartered in Thousand Oaks, California for its continued Superior Customer Service contributions and continued success as a financial institution during its 12 years of existence in the Conejo Valley.

Since Los Robles Bank's inception on July 2, 1987, its marketing plan has always been to provide superior service to the small-to-medium sized businesses in the Conejo Valley and contiguous communities.

Under the very capable leadership of its President and Chief Executive Officer, Robert B. Hamilton and Jerry H. Miller, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Los Robles Bank has grown to operate Branches in Thousand Oaks, Westlake Village, and Camarillo. The Bank has grown to assets of over \$153,000,000 as of June 30, 1999.

Los Robles Bank was selected as the Outstanding Business of the Year for 1998 by the Thousand Oaks/Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce and for two consecutive years received the Readers' choice award as "Best Bank in Conejo Valley" based upon votes cast by Daily News' readers.

Other Significant Corporate Citizenship includes roles in and contributions to Under One Roof, Rotary International, Optimist Clubs of Thousand Oaks, Pleasant Valley Lions Club, Thousand Oaks Police Department, Ventura County High Schools and College Scholarship Funds, Conejo Free Clinic, Year-Round Star Program and Youth employment and Training

Programs, Junior charity League, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, Hospice, United Way, many Mansions, Mana, Conejo-Las Virgenes Future Foundation, Park Oaks Elementary School Reading Program, Conejo Valley Days, and Special Kids Day.

In High School sports Los Robles Bank has continuously supported athletic programs at Thousand Oaks, Newbury Park, Westlake and Aldolfo Camarillo High Schools.

The Bank is an active sponsor for California Lutheran Universities Academic program through membership in the Community Leaders Club and the Matthews Business Management Forum.

Recently Credit Suisse Bank sent a top official to Los Robles Bank to learn about the Bank operations and approaches to banking in general. The Suisse Bank representative upon his departure stated that he was most impressed with Los Robles Bank's customer service and employee relations skills—something that is continually stressed by the Bank's Management.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in recognizing Los Robles Bank for its accomplishments and successes in both the Banking and Civic communities over the past 12 years.

HONORABLE EVELYN DIXSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Brooklyn's grand dames, Mrs. Evelyn Dixon.

Mrs. Dixon has provided a lifetime of public service to the people of Brooklyn. She was elected to eight consecutive two-year terms as a Democratic State Committeewoman for the 56th Assembly District. She is a past President of the Brooklyn Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. and is presently an advisor to the Club. She is also a former member of the Board of Directors of Elected Officials of New York State; a past President of the Bedford Stuyvesant Lioness Club; and a charter member of the Stuyvesant Heights Lions Club International. A long time member of Cornerstone Baptist Church, Mrs. Dixon is President of the Cornerstone Federal Credit Union and President of the Board of Directors for Cornerstone's Sandy F. Ray Elderly Housing.

As a result of her community activism, Evelyn Dixon has received numerous honors and awards including the Sojourner Truth Award, The Churchwoman of the Year Award from Key Women of America and the Melvin Jones Award from Lions International. She has also been honored by a number of elected officials like Brooklyn's Borough President, Howard Golden, and the New York State Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators, Inc. The Pratt Area Community Council also honored Ms. Dixon by naming one of its affordable housing projects in 1994, "The Evelyn Dixon Houses". The Dixon Houses are seven newly rehabilitated buildings in Brooklyn.

A former teacher, Mrs. Dixon was also Executive Administrative Assistant for the Taxi and Limousine Commission of New York City. She is an alumna of North Carolina State College. She also studied at Bank Street College and the New School for Social Research in New York City specializing in Early Childhood Education.

I am pleased to bring the achievements of one of Brooklyn's finest citizens, Mrs. Evelyn Dixon, to the attention of my colleagues.

IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 247 HONORING NATIONAL DONOR DAY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleague and good friend, Representative KAREN THURMAN, in support of House Concurrent Resolution 247, to honor National Donor Day and recognize the importance of organ, tissue, bone marrow & blood donation.

With more than ten people dying every day and approximately 70,000 Americans currently awaiting organs, it is clear that our nation is facing a crisis. This resolution will help raise awareness and increase donations nationwide—it is a meaningful step toward bringing an end to our nation's current predicament.

A number of businesses, foundations, health organizations, and the Department of Health and Human Services have previously designated February 12th as National Donor Day. The first two National Donor Days succeeded in raising a total of almost 17,000 units of blood, adding over 2,400 potential donors to the National Marrow Donor Program Registry, and included mass distribution of organ and tissue pledge cards. This Concurrent Resolution supports National Donor Day, encourages Americans to learn about and openly discuss donation, and calls on the President to issue a proclamation to demonstrate support for organ, tissue, blood and bone marrow donation.

Research points to a clear need for public education and incentive programs to increase organ donation. This Congress, I also introduced legislation, H.R. 941, the "Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act of 1999," to create a commemorative medal that honors organ donors and their families. This Act is intended to draw attention to this life-saving issue and to send a clear message that donating one's organs is a selfless act worth the profound respect of our Nation. I hope Members would also consider this effort to increase donations.

This problem is clear—there are not enough organs to meet the needs of patients nationwide. Let's support initiatives such as H.R. 941, to create an organ donor medal, and H. Con. Res. 247, to honor National Donor Day and recognize the importance of organ, tissue, bone marrow & blood donation. Such initiatives will help raise awareness, increase donations nationwide, and both are meaningful steps toward bringing an end to the lack of available organs nationwide.

RECOGNIZING THE MILLENNIUM
PLEDGE MADE BY STUDENTS AT
SLEEPY HOLLOW ELEMENTARY,
FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Speaker, on Thursday, January 16, 2000, I joined students, teachers, and school officials at Sleepy Hollow Elementary School as the final student signatures were added to the school's "Millennium Pledge." These students have decided to enter the new millennium as leaders dedicated to making their world more respectful and tolerant. In a campaign spearheaded by Sleep Hollow's student council, I praise the students for committing themselves to this endeavor. These students are taking an admirable and challenging step. The plan is simple, action oriented, and it allows each and every student to assume a leadership position that can truly make a difference in their everyday lives.

The pledge kicks off a year-long character education campaign at the school. After student council members added their signatures on January 16th, the pledges were hung outside classrooms to serve as a reminder of their resolution, which reads:

With my signature, I recognize that I possess the power to affect the world around me. It is my pledge to use this power to spread kindness and respect, to be accepting and tolerant, and to walk away from negative and aggressive situations. As a future leader of America it is my resolution to enter this new millennium as a nation that values life and respects our rights to live and learn in a safe society. I am the future of America. The future begins today, and it begins with me.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I again would like to commend these fine young students at Sleepy Hollow Elementary for their courage and strength in accepting this challenge from their peers. These students have signed a pledge making "kindness and respect" their resolution for the new millennium. This is a pledge I would encourage all people, young and old, to take.

INTRODUCTION OF BROKEN PROMISES RETIREE HEALTH LEGISLATION

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Broken Promises Retiree Health Act. This legislation would help retirees obtain health insurance if their coverage is canceled and would ensure that retirees are given fair warning before their employers terminate their health coverage.

The need for this legislation is clear. Far too many companies are breaking their promises to retired workers by eliminating retiree health benefits. A recent report by Mercer/Foster-Higgins found that in 1999, only 35 percent of large employers offered health benefits to their early retirees. This is a decline of six percent in the past five years alone. As a result, thousands of retirees have been stranded without

health care—health care they were promised, and health care they earned through their long years of service.

This national trend hit home in my district on August 5, 1996 when the Pabst Brewing Company announced that they were eliminating the health benefits plans for almost 750 retirees and their families.

Seniors in my district and throughout the country rely on their employers' commitment to provide health insurance in their golden years. When a company revokes that coverage, many older Americans are trapped in the limbo between employee health benefits and Medicare coverage. Retirees should not be faced with the vulnerability of being uninsured when irresponsible employers break their promise to provide retiree health coverage.

The legislation I am introducing today would establish a critical safety-net for these retirees. Through this bill, retirees who were over the age of 55 when their health benefits were terminated can choose between two new health coverage options. First, for a monthly premium of approximately \$400 per month, retirees would be allowed to buy into the Medicare program. Or, if the employer is continuing to offer health benefits to its current employees, retirees could choose to buy the same health coverage for themselves and their families that the company offers current employees. Both options ensure that health coverage would be available to retirees until they turn 65 and become eligible for Medicare.

In addition, this legislation would require employers to give 6 months notice to retirees of any reduction in their health benefits and would also require the Labor Department to certify that these changes meet the requirements of the collective bargaining agreement.

Legislation cannot heal the pain of employer betrayal after a lifetime of service, but it can renew the promise of retiree health coverage.

Mr. Speaker, we must act now. I ask my colleagues to show their support for retired workers and their families by cosponsoring this bill.

HONORING THE HERSHEY KIXX SYNCHRONIZED SKATING TEAM UPON THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENT IN RECEIVING THE BRONZE MEDAL AT THE EASTERN DIVISION SYNCHRONIZED TEAM SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hershey KIXX Synchronized Skating Team for receiving the Bronze Medal at the Eastern Synchronized Team Skating Championships in Lowell, Massachusetts.

The "Synchro East 2000" Competition included teams in the Eastern Division of the USFSA with the gold and silver medal winners in the qualifying division advancing to Nationals in Detroit in February 2000. With the coming Olympic games in 2002 in Salt Lake City, Utah, synchronized team skating will be added as a new Olympic sport. Synchronized skating is guided by the United States Figure Skating Association, which divides all competitors into

fourteen individual brackets. Within each bracket, skaters are divided into groups depending on skill level, age and style. Each team usually contains between eight and twenty members. The teams skate in formations which are judged in a variety of categories which include artistry, speed, and difficulty, while onlookers are marveled, mystified, and enthused by a wide range of daring skating tricks, tremendous feats, and gallant efforts. In the United States there are only 325 synchronized skating teams, with the Hershey KIXX team being the only synchronized competitive team at the Junior Classic level in all of Pennsylvania.

The Hershey KIXX team was first created in 1996 and immediately began winning ribbons, gaining national recognition, and hosting a variety of honors. In early 1999 they took first place in the junior classic division at the Colonial Classic in Lowell, Massachusetts, going on to win second place at the Garden State Classic in New Jersey later in the summer. They have performed at a variety of venues, including club Christmas shows, the Winterfest at Baltimore's Inner Harbor, summer camps in New England, as well as amaze the local crowds in frequent performances at Hershey Bears hockey games.

The team is now in its third year of competing and continues to gain in popularity with girls and young women from statewide elementary schools, high schools, and even colleges. The girls currently attend Cedar Cliff, Cumberland Valley, Mechanicsburg, Central Dauphin, Hershey, Lower Dauphin, Palmyra, and Lebanon School Districts, along with Meyer High School in Wilkes-Barre and Gettysburg College. Currently, the team is coached by Amy Henderson, along with the assistance from Elizabeth Beichler and Dr. Ellen Geminani. Similarly to synchronized swimming, the team constantly rehearses their routines to the point where every part of their bodies move synchronized to one another fitting brilliantly with the music and mood. But unlike synchronized swimming, the skaters are in constant view, skating at extremely high speeds without the benefit of underwater reconfiguring. The show only lasts about three to five minutes, but each performance is guaranteed to be filled with drastically precise, vulnerable, and complicated maneuvers. When these young women decide to embark in art of synchronized skating, they are learning about the vast responsibility, utmost discipline, and sheer sacrifice the sport entails. The team practices on the ice every Saturday and Sunday morning at 6:30 a.m., with each session followed by off the ice practices where various new and complicated moves are attempted without skates. When competitions or performances are scheduled, you can be certain that the local ice rink will be rented out for a grueling practice. But in the end, the dedication and hard work of each team member is rewarded with awards, honors, and respect from the community both on the ice and off.

Supporting the Hershey KIXX are the parents who vigorously and selflessly help raise money, sew uniforms, transport equipment, and cheer their devoted girls at all competitions. The club also gets financial help from the community who help the skaters by purchasing hoagies, lollipops, or any other various seasonal fundraising items the team decides to sell. These supporters, who help the team continue to pursue their interests,

dreams, and expectations for the future, also deserve our thanks.

The Hershey KIXX team is currently scheduled to perform in the Opening Ceremonies at the Keystone State Games at Twin Ponds-West in February 2000, and at a future Hershey Bears game. I wish them the best of luck in these performances and all their future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, again we take this opportunity to acknowledge and commend the Hershey KIXX Synchronized Skating Team for their outstanding achievement in winning the Bronze Medal.

ARTICLE BY BILL EVERS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD and highly recommend to all of my colleagues Bill Evers' "Secretary Riley Reignites the Math Wars," which recently appeared in the Weekly Standard. Mr. Evers' provides an excellent overview of the controversy created by the Department of Education's endorsement of ten "discovery-learning" programs (also known as "new, new math" or "fuzzy math"). Concerns have been raised that "fuzzy math" de-emphasizes traditional mathematics in favor of encouraging children to "discover" math without the guidance of a teacher. Under some "new, new math" programs traditional teaching is discouraged on the grounds that teachers may harm a child's self-esteem by, for example, correcting a child's "discovery" that 2+2 equals 5. Obviously, this type of "education" diminishes a child's future prospects, after all, few employers value high self-esteem more than the ability to add!

Mr. Evers' article points out that the federal government has no constitutional authority to dictate or even recommend to local schools what type of mathematics curriculum they should adopt. Instead, all curriculum decisions are solely under the control of states, local communities, teachers, and parents. I would remind my colleagues that outrages like "new math" did not infiltrate the classroom until the federal government seized control of education, allowing Washington-DC based bureaucrats to use our children as guinea pigs for their politically correct experiments.

The solution to America's education crisis lies in returning to the Constitution and restoring parental control. In order to restore true parental control of education, I have introduced the Family Education Freedom Act (HR 935). This bill would give parents a \$3,000 per year tax credit for each child's education related expenses. Unlike other so-called "reform" proposals, my bill would allow parents considerably more freedom in determining how to educate their children. It would also be free of guidelines and restrictions that only dilute the actual number of dollars spent directly on a child.

The Family Education Freedom Act provides parents with the means to make sure their children are getting a quality education that meets their child's special needs. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleagues that thirty years of centralized education have pro-

duced nothing but failure and frustrated parents. I, therefore, urge my colleagues to read Mr. Evers' article on the dangers of the federal endorsement of "fuzzy math" and support my efforts to improve education by giving dollars and authority to parents, teachers and local school districts by cosponsoring the Family Education Freedom Act.

Williamson Evers is a research fellow at the Hoover Institution, an adjunct professor of political science at Santa Clara University, a research fellow at the Independent Institute and an adjunct fellow of the Ludwig Von Mises Institute. Mr. Evers has served on the California State Commission for the Establishment of Academic Content and Performance Standards and he is currently a member of the California State Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) assessment system's Content Review Panels for history and mathematics as well as the Advisory Board of the Californian History-Social Science Project. Mr. Evers is the editor of What's Gone Wrong in America's Classrooms (Hoover Institution Press, 1998). Mr. Evers has been published in numerous scholarly and popular periodicals, including the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Los Angeles Times, and the Christian Science Monitor.

SECRETARY RILEY REIGNITES THE MATH WARS (By Bill Evers)

BILL EVERS IS A RESEARCH FELLOW AT THE HOOVER INSTITUTION AND A MEMBER OF HOOVER'S KORET TASK FORCE ON K-12 EDUCATION.

In early 1998, U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley called for a "cease-fire" in the math wars between the proponents of solid content and the proponents of discovery-learning methods. He said he was "very troubled" by "the increasing polarization and fighting" about how and which mathematics should be taught from kindergarten through high school.

Despite this call for a cease-fire, the U.S. Department of Education endorsed ten discovery-learning programs in October 1999. This federal imprimatur should not be allowed to disguise the fact that content (such as dividing fractions and multiplying multidigit numbers) is missing from these federally approved programs and that there is no good evidence that they are effective. Discovery-learning math is often called by its critics "fuzzy math" or "no-correct-answer math."

In response to the Department of Education, about two hundred mathematicians and scientists signed an open letter to Secretary Riley, which was published in the Washington Post on November 18, 1999 (see letter at www.mathematicallycorrect.com/riley.htm.) The signers, who included Nobel laureates and some of the country's most eminent mathematicians, didn't like the Department of Education's new equation: Federal Math=Fuzzy Math. The letter asked Riley to withdraw the federal endorsements. The news stories that followed got at the essence of the debate.

Steve Leinward of the Connecticut Department of Education was on the U.S. Department of Education's panel that picked the math programs that would receive federal approval. In an interview with the Chronicle of Higher Education, Leinward defended the approved programs as the least common denominator—"a common core of math that all students can master."

Leinward is not saying that the federally approved programs cover the material taught in too-performing countries such as Japan or Hungary or that the programs contain complete coverage of elementary and

secondary school math. What he and his fellow panelists want is a watered-down program that all American students—as currently trained—can master.

Mathematics professor David Klein of California State University at Northridge is a proponent of solid content. He is quoted in the Chronicle of Higher Education as saying that algebra is the key course for students, the gateway to success in mathematics and to success in college in general. Leinward says that Klein's algebra-for-all position is elitist.

Here we have the central difference between the two sides. The rigorous curriculum side says that, like Japan, Taiwan, and Singapore, we can have algebra for all, preparing students for technical careers and college-level work. The water-it-down side says U.S. teachers and students aren't capable of teaching and learning algebra.

These federal recommendations are for kindergarten through high school, which has serious consequences. In essence, the U.S. Department of Education, by making these endorsements, is closing the gate on going to college or even on technical blue-collar jobs for many students. And it is closing that gate as early as kindergarten.

IN HONOR OF ALFRED RASCON

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a hero, former Army medic Alfred Rascon.

After a delay of nearly 3 1/2 decades, Alfred this week finally received the nation's highest military honor, the Medal of Honor.

Mr. Speaker, Alfred was born in Mexico, and moved to Oxnard, California, in my district, with his family when he was a small child. His family raised him there and instilled in him the values of honor, integrity, a love of his adopted land and a reverence for life and his fellow human beings.

At age 17, he left Oxnard and joined the Army. He trained to be a medic and a paratrooper. On March 16, 1966, in the jungles of Vietnam, Alfred was severely and repeatedly wounded as he crawled from comrade to comrade to render aid, to protect his comrades and to retrieve weapons and ammunition needed in the firefight they were in.

By the time Alfred was loaded into a helicopter, he was near death. A chaplain gave him last rites. He survived. Because of his efforts, so did his sergeant and at least one other in his platoon.

But the medal Alfred was due was lost in red tape, until this week, when the record was corrected.

During the intervening 34 years, Alfred left the Army, completed his college education, became U.S. citizen, returned to the Army, returned to Vietnam, and left the Army as a lieutenant. Now married with two children, Alfred is an inspector general for the U.S. Selective Service.

When President Clinton presented the Medal of Honor to Alfred, the hero downplayed his actions in Vietnam as "common valor that was done every day." We know differently. We know that Alfred is special. We know we would do well to emulate his values and his humility. We honor him to remind us of the ideal American: someone who

works hard, is willing to risk everything in times of crisis, and who shrugs it off as just the right thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in honoring Alfred Rascon for his heroism in Vietnam 34 years ago and for being the role model he remains today.

TRIBUTE TO DR. W. LEE IRVING

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. W. Lee Irving, who is ending his term as President of the American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Dr. Irving has held the position since March 1999 and will relinquish his duties in April 2000 at the organization's annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee.

Throughout his career, Dr. Irving has had a tremendous impact on the advancement of professional opportunities for obstetricians and gynecologists around the country. In addition to his role as President, Dr. Irving has worn many different hats during his career. From 1993 to 1999 he served as the College's Chairman of the Residency Evaluation Committee. From 1990 to the present he has served as a member of the College's Certifying Board and Board of Trustees. At Metropolitan Hospital in his hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan, he served as Program Director from 1985 through 1999. He currently serves as Chairman of the Obstetrics-Gynecology Department at Metropolitan Hospital.

Contributions to his profession do not end there. He was recently appointed to the Council for Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology, a national organization that oversees the training of all OB-GYN residents for both the Osteopathic and Allopathic professions. During his tenure as President, he has also been credited with fostering a closer working relationship between the American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Dr. Irving for the countless contributions he has made to his profession. As you can see, Mr. Speaker, Dr. Irving has had a tremendous impact in his field of expertise. I applaud him and thank him for his work as President of the American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and wish him continued success in his work in medical and educational programs. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Dr. Irving for his outstanding contributions.

HONORING LOS ANGELES COUNTY UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MEDICAL CENTER

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Los Angeles County University of Southern California Medical Center (LAC+USC) for its outstanding commitment to

community service, as recognized by the Baxter Allegiance and the American Hospital Association. Only one institution each year is awarded the prestigious Foster G. McGraw prize for innovative health-care programs and expedited access to care. LAC+USC earned that recognition this year, an especially impressive achievement given that just a few years ago this hospital was on the brink of closure.

The LAC+USC Healthcare Network has successfully identified the unique needs of its surrounding population and found creative solutions to address those needs. For example, learning that childhood asthma represented the number one cause of school absenteeism in the Los Angeles Unified School District, LAC+USC's Healthcare Network formed a partnership with the school district and the Allergy and Asthma Foundation of America to establish a Mobile Asthma Clinic. The Mobile Asthma Clinic has since reduced absenteeism by more than 20 percent for children seen by the clinic, nearly 65 percent of the children served has gained control of their asthma, and related emergency room use has declined by 18 percent. This program is just one of many innovative approaches the LAC+USC Healthcare Network has implemented to deliver top-notch health care to hard-to-serve population, others include: the Violence Intervention program, the Day Care Center, the Trauma Outreach Program and the Safe Kids program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Los Angeles County University of Southern California Medical Center for the extraordinary and commitment it has demonstrated in bridging the health care gap for Los Angelenos.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JEWELLE TAYLOR GIBBS FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mrs. LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and an honor to stand before you today and pay tribute to an outstanding educator from the great State of California and my congressional district, Dr. Jewelle Taylor Gibbs.

After a distinguished 20 year career in teaching and research, Dr. Gibbs is retiring from the University of California at Berkeley's School of Social Welfare, where she has served as the Zellerbach Family Fund Professor of Community Change and Practice.

Dr. Gibbs, who graduated from Radcliffe College with honors, received her M.S.W., M.A., and PhD degrees from the University of California at Berkeley. She is a licensed clinical psychologist whose areas of specialization focus on the psychosocial problems of adolescent, social and mental health issues of low-income and minority populations.

Dr. Gibbs is the authority of Young, Black and Male in America: An Endangered Species (1988) and co-author of Children of Color: Psychological Interventions with Minority Youth (1989), as well as numerous book

chapters, articles and essays. In Fall of 1994, she was a Visiting Professor at the University of Toronto (Canada). She has also been a Visiting Scholar at the University of London, the National Institute of Social Work in England, McGill University (Canada), Wayne State University, and the Claremont College system.

Dr. Gibbs is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association (Div. 27) and of the American Orthopsychiatric Association. She has also served on the Board of Directors and Editorial Board of the American Orthopsychiatric Association, The Publications Board of the National Association of Social Workers and is a founding member of the Advisory Council of the National Center for Children in Poverty. She has also served as a member of the Board of Regents of Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, California and has been a consultant to the Carnegie Foundation and the Ford Foundation. From 1977-79 she served as a member of the Special Populations Task Panel of the President's Commission on Mental Health.

In 1987, Dr. Gibbs was the recipient of the McCormick Award from the American Association of Suicidology for her research on minority youth suicide. In 1990, she received an Alumnae Achievement Award from Radcliffe College, where she currently serves on the Board of Trustees. She has also received numerous other awards for her research and advocacy on behalf of African-American youth from national, state and local groups including the Northern California Chapter of the NAACP-Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, the National Black Child Development, Institute, the city of Detroit and the Michigan State Legislature.

In 1985, Dr. Gibbs was a Fellow at the Bunting Research Institute at Radcliffe College and from 1991-92 she was a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington, D.C. In 1991, she was also selected as a Scholar for the 21st Century Commission on Black Males in Washington, D.C. She currently serves on the Presidio Advisory Council in San Francisco.

Dr. Gibbs is listed in the Who's Who of American Women, Who's Who Among Human Service Professionals, Who's Who in Education and Who's Who Among Black Americans. She has lectured in Canada, England, Japan and Hawaii and is a frequent guest on radio and television programs about youth and inner-city issues.

The above reflects just a sampling of Dr. Gibbs' illustrious career. As a trailblazer in the area of social work, she has provided outstanding service to our nation and I am sure she will continue to do so throughout the years to come.

In closing, I congratulate Dr. Gibbs, once again, on her retirement and wish her the very best in all of her future endeavors.

30 YEARS OF THE HOUR OF POWER

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a great American, Dr. Robert H.

Schuller. For 30 years, The Rev. Schuller has brought his message of hope and positive thinking to the world.

The Hour of Power is now broadcast all over the world, on each and every continent, to over 30 million people in more than 200 countries. Dr. Schuller has preached in Russia and in a Damascus mosque. His show was the first ministry available to Christians in the Soviet Union in 1989.

But my friend the Rev. Schuller will tell you that his future was not so certain once upon a time. In 1955 he was preaching at a drive-in theater. He once doubted whether there was enough support for his program.

But like he constantly reminds me, "God loves you," He loves the Reverend too. And Dr. Schuller found himself blessed with the generosity he needed to begin his ministry.

On September 14, 1980, Dr. Schuller dedicated the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove—located in my Congressional District in Orange County, California—to the glory of man for the greater glory of God. It is now home to the worldwide Crystal Cathedral Ministries, and hosts a congregation more than 10,000 members strong as well as the Hour of Power.

The Rev. Schuller's faith saw him through those early years, and our community is not only stronger and better for it, but also closer to God. I salute Dr. Schuller today in honor of the 30th anniversary of the Hour of Power.

OPENING OF THE ARMENIAN EDUCATION, ART & COMMUNICATION CENTER IN SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, February 12, 2000, a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held for the opening of the Armenian Educational, Art & Communication Center and the Nikit and Eleanora Ordjanian Library-Museum, including the Personal Library of Reverend Father and Arafelian and the ACYO Computer Karam Center. This event will be held at the Armenian Apostolic Church of Arizona in Scottsdale, AZ.

This ceremony will be followed by a concert by George Mgrdichian, the world-renowned virtuoso of the oud, a traditional Armenian instrument. Mr. Mgrdichian is the writer and performer of the Broadway musical "Nine Armenians."

Mr. Speaker, it is always a matter of great pride for me to join with the Armenian-American community in welcoming a new center for the celebration and advancement of Armenian culture. The Armenian-American community, over one million strong, has contributed in countless ways to the economy and the culture of the United States. While embodying the American Dream, the sons and daughters of Armenia who have settled in the United States have for generations striven to maintain their links to one of the most ancient and enduring cultures in the human race.

Next year, the Republic of Armenia will be the site of celebrations for the 1,700th anniversary of Christianity. Armenia is, in fact, the first nation to have embraced Christianity as its na-

tional religion. And the history of the Armenian nation, language and people goes back many centuries earlier. In the years since, despite terrible periods of war, conquest and oppression, the Armenian people have endured and preserved. Today, Armenians the world over can take pride in the tremendous strides made by the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Nagorno Karabagh, emerging democracies that seek to establish their rightful place as members of the family of nations. The sense of pride in being Armenian can be felt in many parts of the world, from Yerevan to Stepanakert to Scottsdale, Arizona, to my hometown of Long Branch, New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege for me to congratulate the Armenian-American community of Scottsdale on the opening of this new facility, and to pay tribute to this important event in the pages of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained from missing votes on Tuesday of this week. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 8, 9, and 10.

50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to bring to the attention of my colleagues an exemplary couple from the Fourth Congressional District of Maryland, Thomas and Audrey Johnson. They are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary today Thursday, February 10th, and a role model of family strength and solidity, which has made America great.

Their commitment to each other, their family, especially Tommie, T.J., and Darius, and their church family Johnson Memorial Baptist Church is impressive and deserving of special recognition and honor. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Thomas and Audrey Johnson on their many years of love and commitment. May their life together continue to be full of joy and offer them many pleasant memories.

HONORING GEORGE KNIERIM

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. UDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the passing of a special brand of American hero. George Knierim was an ordinary citizen who devoted his abundant skills to realize his vision of the United States aid effort in the third world. For 30 years, Knierim worked for

the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), sharing his agricultural knowledge, training, and expertise with governments and farmers in Nepal, Iraq, India, Afghanistan, Turkey, and Sri Lanka.

USAID had its origins in President Truman's Inaugural Address of 1949 when he said, "Only by helping the least fortunate of its members to help themselves can the human family achieve the decent, satisfying life that is the right of all people." This vision energized and motivated a generation of technical advisors to work in agriculture, education, and infrastructure improvements in remote, developing regions of the world. Knierim and his colleagues had an impact on the lives of countless people as they shared the benefits of our extensive American experience. He used his single-minded passion to help protect fragile environments, provide pure water supplies, improve irrigation practices and improve varieties of cereal grains for the developing world. Although he received much recognition for his work, he considered his most prestigious title to be "American Farmer." Among the many and varied achievements of his career, the one that pleased him most was the opportunity to reinvent and adapt Nineteenth century-style farm implements for use with Asian draft animals. "I just gave them the tools and ideas that the Mormons brought with them into the Salt Lake Valley," he said.

George Knierim is symbolic of the thousands of men and women who sacrificed the comfort of their homeland and family in the United States to share techniques and technology with people for whom simple existence and subsistence was a daily challenge.

Our nation has been blessed because of the contributions of compassionate people like George Knierim, who carried their kindness throughout the globe. Today, Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to George Knierim, who shared a portion of the American dream with the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district on January 31, 2000 and missed Recorded Votes #2 (Authorizing the Use of the Rotunda for Holocaust Memorial) and #3 (the Hillory J. Farias and Samantha Reid Date-Rape Prevention Drug Act of 1999).

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on final passage of H. Con. Res. 244 and "aye" on final passage of H.R. 2130, on January 31, 2000.

INTRODUCTION OF A PRIVATE RELIEF BILL FOR LEILANI WINNEFRED TOOLEY

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation to grant permanent residence to Leilani Tooley.

Leilani was adopted from China when she was less than one year old to a United States citizen father and a Micronesian mother. Through the 1980's when Leilani was a child, her father was a teacher, traveling throughout the Marshall Islands. Due to a translation error in China, an attempt to convey resident status upon Leilani was denied.

Leilani and her parents moved to the United States in 1992. Leilani was admitted as a CFA/FSM resident which allows her to remain in the United States legally but does not allow her to attend postsecondary school or to become a permanent resident or citizen. From 1992 through 1998, Leilani was eligible for citizenship by virtue of her living in the United States and being the adopted daughter of a United States citizen. Unfortunately, the naturalization process was never completed prior to her father's death in 1998. When her father passed away, Leilani's permanent resident mother began the naturalization process herself so that when completed, she could then convey permanent residence to her daughter. Unfortunately, Leilani's mother died in 1999, prior to her being naturalized.

Leilani is now alone in this country with no living relatives. She cannot return to China since she speaks no Chinese and she was released from that country when she was less than a year old, and she cannot return to the Pacific Islands since she was Chinese at birth. All of Leilani's friends and schoolmates are in the United States and it is only due to a string of unfortunate events that Leilani is not today a naturalized citizen. Leilani is a bright, industrious young lady, whose wish is to attend college. However, until this legislation is signed into law, her aspirations are on hold. I urge the swift passage of this bill, Mr. Speaker, to grant permanent residence to Leilani Tooley.

TRIBUTE TO HAMPTON POLICE
CHIEF PAT MINETTI

HON. HERBERT H. BATEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent in my district, Pat Minetti. I would like to read a letter I sent to Pat in early January before we came back in session and then expand upon it with these remarks.

Dear Pat, it is with great pleasure that I write this letter of congratulations to you on the occasion of your retirement after an extraordinary tenure of 45 years as a member of the Hampton Police Division. Your commitment to your job is exemplified in the number of years of your dedicated service and your immeasurable accomplishments. In your 27 years as Chief, you achieved your goals and the Hampton Police force and the City of Hampton are better for it. I know the City of Hampton is proud to count you among one of its finest and is greatly indebted to you. Please know that Laura and I wish you the best in retirement.

Pat Minetti was a truly outstanding law enforcement officer and Chief of Police. His service to his community and its citizens has been honorable and faithful for 45 years. The story of Pat's service reflects the devotion to duty, family and community that helps to keep this nation, America, safe for families and individual citizens.

The son of Italian immigrants, Pat was born and raised in New Castle, Pennsylvania. As a young man, Pat worked in the steel mills and as a lumberjack while attending school. From his parents, and through his experiences growing up, he learned the important values of integrity, hard work and devotion to God, family and service.

Pat moved to Hampton, Virginia in 1955 and joined the Hampton Police Division. He started as a patrolman, walking a beat and serving families and small business. He was quickly recognized for his enthusiasm for law enforcement and genuine concern for the safety and rights of all citizens. He diligently worked through each rank, and with his unwavering desire to serve his citizens, he always applied himself to the most challenging operational positions out in the community. In 1972, his potential for senior leadership combined with his gifts and skills in law enforcement led the Mayor and the City Manager to select him to become Hampton's Chief of Police, a position he held for the past 28 years.

Pat's remarkable career, spanning the terms of eight Mayors and six City Managers, reflects a truly exceptional dedication to serving others and the ability to lead and grow an organization through long-term vision, passion and law enforcement expertise. Among his many accomplishments, Pat holds an MPA Degree from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government where he was elected Class Marshall. He also is a graduate of the 92nd Session of the FBI National Academy where he was awarded the J. Edgar Hoover Certificate of Scholastic Excellence.

Pat served as the 1989 President of the FBI National Academy Associates and is a past President of the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police. At the national level, he served as a member of the National Law Enforcement Council during President Bush's Administration. At the state level, he served as a member of Governor Wilder's Commission on Violent Crime, where he chaired the Task Force Subcommittee on Crime Prevention. Under Governor Allen's Administration, he served as a member of the Joint Subcommittee examining laws regarding handicapped parking.

Pat was awarded the prestigious Presidential Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police in August 1998, only the third such award to be presented since the organization was established in 1926.

Pat's selfless service and dedication to Hampton, Virginia's citizens and law enforcement has earned him the respect and admiration of his beloved community and the many police officers and local, state and national officials who have been associated with him over the past 45 years. Pat continues to live in Hampton with his wife, Donnie, who has shared the thrills and hardships of being a police wife for more than 43 years. He has two daughters and four grandchildren, with whom he enjoys spending time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Pat and his family for their service to Hampton, its citizens and the Commonwealth of Virginia and I wish for them all God's blessings in the years to come.

IN MEMORY OF THEODORE
KARABINUS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Theodore Karabinus, a community leader, political activist, and a good friend.

A true patriot, Mr. Karabinus was a highly decorated veteran of the U.S. Marines who served in both World War II and the Korean Conflict. He was also a member of the Pearl Harbor Survivor's Association. After retiring from the military, Mr. Karabinus embarked on a career with a local telephone company, where he worked for thirty years. He was dedicated to the advancement of working men and women and was a highly respected union leader in Cleveland, Ohio. He also served as President of the Communication Workers of America.

Mr. Karabinus's extensive humanitarian efforts demonstrate his commitment to improving the lives of others. He was actively involved for fifty years in organizations that supported civil rights. As a troop leader for the Boy Scouts of America, Mr. Karabinus shared his experience and wisdom with young men in Cleveland. He also reached out to the senior citizens in the community and assisted those who needed help with completing their tax return forms.

Mr. Karabinus was a political activist in Northeast Ohio and has been involved in numerous political campaigns including local and presidential campaigns. He also worked with the Committee on Political Education, which strives to encourage the youth of America to be involved in our democratic process.

I treasured my friendship with Mr. Karabinus and am certain that his contributions to our community will never be forgotten. He was an outstanding American and will be missed greatly by those of us privileged to know him.

TRIBUTE TO FILLMORE, NEW
YORK

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my most sincere congratulations to the community of Fillmore, New York, as it enters its Sesquicentennial Year. This vibrant community, located in Allegany County, in the Town of Hume, enjoys a long and proud history in the State of New York. Celebrations surrounding the 150th Anniversary are planned for this coming May 27 to 29, 2000.

Fillmore is, of course, named after the thirteenth President of the United States, Millard Fillmore, who in 1850 was responsible for the establishment of a Post Office in the then existing settlement. Coincidentally, in addition to this being the community's sesquicentennial, the year 2000 also marks the 200th anniversary of President Fillmore's birth.

Born on what was then the "frontier", in the Finger Lakes region of New York, Millard Fillmore rose from serving on his family farm to serving in the U.S. House of Representatives,

the New York State government, and finally as Vice President and President of the United States. In fact, Mr. Speaker, in this very building, in the Old House Chamber, there is a plaque marking the location of then-Congressman Fillmore's desk. The spirit of hard work and rugged dedication shown by President Fillmore throughout his life is certainly carried on by this small but vibrant community that bears his name.

Fillmore's idyllic, pastoral setting in the Allegheny Mountain Range at the top of the Appalachian Region, makes it a beautiful natural local surrounded by attractions such as Letchworth State Park and the Swain Ski Resort. But the people of Fillmore make the community the success that it is today.

The citizens of Fillmore are very proud of their community, and rightly so. For the past 150 years, Fillmore has contributed much to our region, state and nation. From the character and successes of its young people—both those who remain in Fillmore and those who have moved on to serve other communities around the nation—to many of its citizens who have fought and sacrificed their lives on the world's battlefields.

One of Fillmore's greatest assets is their outstanding public school. Fillmore Central School, led by Superintendent Dave Hanks, is a shining example of rural public education at its finest—from its top notch instruction of subjects such as mathematics and social studies, to a firm commitment to technology, and the provision of creative outlets for for young people to participate in the arts through drama, visual arts, and music. As an added benefit, the mighty Fillmore Eagles have, on many occasions, brought great pride to the community by bringing home titles in sports such as basketball and tennis, and just last year made it to New York State's "Final Four" in soccer.

Before I close, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize one of Fillmore's greatest public servants, Alton Saylor, who passed away recently after years of service to the community, particularly as a member of the Allegany County Legislature for the past twenty-two years. We miss him greatly, and will remember him most during this celebration of Fillmore's history—a history that he helped shape.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in extending our most hearty congratulations to Fillmore on the occasion of their 150th anniversary.

IMPROVING THE IMPACT AID PROGRAM

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to reauthorize and to make further improvements to the Impact Aid Program, Title VIII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. As you know, Impact Aid is part of the basic financial support for local school districts whose boundaries include military bases and other federal lands in lieu of local taxes which ordinarily support public schools.

In my congressional district, Impact Aid is an element of the basic financial support for schools in Cumberland, Robeson, Hoke, Rich-

mond and Scotland Counties, just as local taxes support other school districts. In some cases, Impact Aid supplies a significant portion of school districts' operating budgets. For example, in Cumberland County, home of Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base, over one-third of the school district's budget comes from Impact Aid and other Federal education programs. In fact, the Cumberland County school system receives the most Impact Aid of any other school systems in North Carolina.

The "Impact Aid Reauthorization Act of 2000" builds on key improvements to the Impact Aid program enacted during the 103rd Congress. At that time, the program was rewritten so it would focus Impact Aid dollars on those school districts most heavily impacted by a Federal presence. Those changes have been extremely successful in getting funding to schools in greatest need of assistance, thus enabling them to improve the quality of education provided to students. In addition, those amendments created greater support in Congress for funding Impact Aid, and we have seen consistent increases in the Impact Aid budget ever since. The legislation I am introducing today will further improve the program, and should lead to even stronger support among colleagues for funding key needs in federally impacted school districts. As in my Congressional district, many of the children affected by this law are the children of members of the Armed Services. And, I believe all of you will agree that we should provide the best possible education to the children of those individuals who put their lives on the line to protect our great Nation.

Key provisions of the bill I am introducing today would:

1. Change to formula for payments for federal property to insure a more equitable distribution of funds.

2. Incorporate into the Impact Aid law the pilot program for heavily impacted school districts included in the past two Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations bills.

3. Insure equitable payment for children living on land formerly owned by the Federal Government. As the military privatizes more and more housing for military personnel, it is expected that school districts will not receive adequate funding under Impact Aid to make up for the difference in the amount of taxes paid on such property and the amount they would have received for each child if the property had retained its non-tax status. This provision would continue to count such children as on-base children, but would reduce the amount of their Impact Aid payment by the actual amount of the taxes used for educational purposes.

4. Require the Department of Education to provide a notice to schools that miss filing deadlines and provide them a period of time within which to submit applications for Impact Aid. This change would address the growing number of yearly Impact Aid amendments necessary because school districts have missed filing deadlines.

5. Revise the construction provisions of the Impact Aid to allow Federally impacted school districts with no bonding capacity or with schools that have health or safety hazards to apply for the existing Impact Aid construction program, and shift some of the existing construction money to serve these districts. The Secretary would then fund the highest priority projects.

6. Provide a funding floor to small school districts with fewer than 1,000 children who have a per pupil average lower than the state average. This provision would guarantee them a foundation payment of no less than 40 percent of what they would receive if the program were fully funded.

As one of the over 150 Members of the House Impact Aid Coalition—one of the largest bipartisan coalitions in Congress—we have worked together to support our local school systems that provide support for military men and women and those citizens that are affected by Federal properties. This bill has the support of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools, the association that represents over 1600 school districts nationwide that will benefit from this legislation, and the National Military Impacted Schools Association. I would like to submit their letters of support for the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, we have a responsibility to assist those school districts impacted by a Federal presence. The "Impact Aid Reauthorization Act of 2000" will help insure school districts receive the support they need to provide children with the best possible education. These are thoughtful improvements to a very important law. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

NATIONAL MILITARY

IMPACTED SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION,

Bellevue, NE, February 10, 2000.

CHAIRMAN BILL GOODLING,

House Education and the Workforce Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN GOODLING: The Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA) is extremely proud of the leadership you and your staff have demonstrated in developing the legislative proposal to reauthorize the Impact Aid Program.

There has been a real sensitivity to the needs of military children and your support is greatly appreciated.

Your discussion on the proper weight for a military (b) child is also appreciated and I hope this can be discussed further.

On behalf of the public schools serving the educational needs of over 550,000 military children, we wholeheartedly endorse and support your Impact Aid reauthorization proposal.

Warmest regards,

JOHN F. DEEGAN, ED.D.,

Chief Executive Officer.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERALLY

IMPACTED SCHOOLS,

Washington, DC, February 10, 2000.

Hon. ROBIN HAYES,

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE HAYES: Over the past six months the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) has been working closely with the Education and the Workforce Committee in a bi-partisan manner to write legislation that would reauthorize the Impact Aid Program. The legislation that the committee is about to introduce is the product of that effort. The legislation reauthorizes the Impact Aid Program and includes only minor changes that NAFIS and the committee agreed to that either refines the present law to make the program work better and/or to address some changes brought about due to actions of the Department of Defense designed to implement policies to improve the quality of life of our military personnel. The committee bill also addresses issues of great concern to school districts educating Native American children. NAFIS is very appreciative of the willingness of the committee to allow us to work

with them on this legislation and we would urge all members of the House of Representatives to join with yourself. Chairman Goodling, Ranking Minority Member Clay, and Representative Kildee in supporting this bill that is about to be introduced.

NAFIS is very pleased with the refinements included in the bill to insure that all local educational agencies eligible for funding under Section 8002 of the program (federal properties) are treated equitably. Although the changes that were made to this section of the program in 1994 did a better job of measuring the financial impact that federal property presents to the taxing authority of a local educational agency, it did—due to the lack of funding for this element of the Impact Aid Program—pose a real threat to primarily rural school districts. The changes included in this legislation will both insure that small rural schools are provided a foundation payment while at the same time recognizing the true fiscal impact of federal property to the tax base of the community served by the school system.

The bill also puts into law, a pilot project that has been included in both the Fiscal Year 1999 and 2000 Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriation Bill. The project being placed into the Impact Aid statute will mean that "Heavily Impacted Local Educational Agencies" will now receive their additional funding under the regular Impact Aid basic support program and will not have to wait up to 18 to 24 months after the appropriation is made to receive their funding. This change will make it easier for these school districts to budget their Impact Aid funding and it also insures that the Federal Government reimburses a school district only for the cost of the impact of the federal dependent child rather than the cost for all children, both federal and non-federal, enrolled in the school district. These changes are welcomed by the heavily impacted community and NAFIS appreciates the understanding of the committee to incorporate the pilot project that has already proved to work into the Impact Aid reauthorization.

NAFIS also supports the recognition by the committee of the problems that a changing military force have placed on those school systems educating military dependent children. Committee language addressing the issue of privatization of on-base housing will insure that the funding levels provided under current law for on-base children will remain, even if on-base housing and the land upon which it is built is turned over to a private developer. This is a realistic approach to an issue that could become potentially a major threat to school systems providing educational programs to the children of our military personnel.

NAFIS would also like to commend the committee for recognizing the facility needs of school systems that are highly impacted with Indian land and military children. The committee bill recognizes that many of these school systems lack the capacity to issue capital construction bonds and in addition, many of these same school systems are currently educating children in facilities that pose a serious health threat to the students and faculty working within them. The responsible approach taken by the committee to address this very serious issue is welcomed by the impact aid community and NAFIS urges the Congress to support the committee's recognition of the federal obligation to address this serious facilities issue.

Although NAFIS would like to see an increase in the weights for on-base military and civilian dependent children, we strongly support the bill that the committee is about to introduce and again offer our gratitude to you for introducing this legislation and Chairman Goodling and his committee staff

as well as to Representatives Clay and Kildee for the work that has been put into this legislation. In summary, NAFIS urges all members of the House to support this legislation when it comes before the full House for a vote in the near future.

Sincerely,

JOHN B. FORKENBROCK,
Executive Director.

IN TRIBUTE TO HAZEL WOLF

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Hazel Wolf. Having achieved her goal to have a foot in three centuries, Hazel passed away on January 19, 2000 at the young age of 101. Tomorrow I hope to join hundreds of her friends gathering in my district to celebrate her life of tenacious dedication to the environment and human rights.

Hazel was born in Victoria, British Columbia on March 10, 1898. She immigrated to the United States in 1923 as a single mother seeking work to support her young daughter. After a successful career as a legal secretary, Hazel officially became a citizen in 1976.

Through all her years Hazel championed issues of importance for women, working people, human rights, and the environment. A true citizen of the world, her efforts were recognized with awards by numerous international, national, state, and local organizations. Her work continues in the hearts of all who were privileged to share her goals and projects.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in tribute to Hazel for demonstrating to us the value of a life of simplicity adorned with the riches of gracious service to humanity and nature. We will miss her wit and wisdom, and we will cherish her memory by pursuing her lessons of love and understanding for all living creatures.

YELTSIN'S NUCLEAR THREAT SHOULD ALARM AN UNDE- FENDED AMERICA

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, former Russian President Boris Yeltsin's startling and sobering reminder last November of his country's robust nuclear weapons capability was as accurate as it was menacing. Firing back at Bill Clinton's public criticism of Russian military assaults on Chechen rebel strongholds, Yeltsin roared, "[Clinton] must have forgotten for a moment what Russia has. It has a full arsenal of nuclear weapons."

Though arguably an impulsive response to embarrassing and unwanted criticism, Yeltsin could not have delivered a more concise and troubling threat to our Nation's security, nor a more valid and fortified one. Despite highly publicized accounts of Russia's deteriorating economic, political, and conventional military realities and capabilities, the country is anything but lightly armed in nuclear weaponry. In fact, Mr. Speaker, Russia still maintains over

20,000 nuclear weapons, most sitting atop highly accurate and fully functioning silo- and sub-launched ballistic missiles awaiting final target coordinates and a "fuel and fire" command.

Yeltsin's impetuous warning—however untenable to an America placated by decisive United States victories in the cold war and the gulf war, and blessed with 60 years of domestic tranquility and tremendous economic prosperity—should be taken quite seriously. In 1993, Russia adopted a national security policy placing even greater reliance upon nuclear deterrence due to its worsening economic crisis and deteriorating conventional military capabilities. Not only does this reality enhance the threat of an intentional launch, it heightens the prospects for an unintentional launch too.

Mr. Speaker, the United States remains defenseless against any such launch. American citizens trust that the first responsibility of their government is "to provide for the common defense," and must accordingly assume there must be in place an effective shield against missile attack. This, however, is not the case. Public opinion polls show most Americans still do not realize the U.S. military—the most powerful, most technologically advanced, and most lethal military force ever assembled—could not stop even a single ballistic missile from impacting American soil today.

In fact, long-range ballistic missiles are the only weapons against which the U.S. Government has decided, as a matter of policy, not to field a defense. Bill Clinton is a fierce defender of this doctrine of deliberate vulnerability and repeatedly threatened to veto any serious congressional legislation enacted to the contrary.

Clinton's doctrine is predicated upon antiquated agreements dating back to 1972 when the United States signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty with the former Soviet Union. At the time, and until relatively recently, the U.S.S.R. was the only nation known to be capable of delivering nuclear warheads to our shores. The world is different now, and the U.S.S.R. no longer exists.

Not counting Yeltsin's unexpected reminder of Russia's formidable nuclear arsenal, Mr. Speaker, Russia is generally considered on the lower end of America's threat scale. That's because it's predictable, if not rational. United States and other intelligence sources have firmly documented the aggressive—and in some cases successful—attempts by many of the world's most violent, unstable, and anti-American entities to develop and acquire weapons of mass destruction, and the means to deliver them.

In 1998, the bipartisan Commission to Assess the Ballistic Missile Threat to the United States, led by former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, asserted the United States may have little or no warning before the emergence of specific new ballistic missile threats to our Nation. The Commission estimated some 20 Third World and outlaw nations, including North Korea, Iran, Iraq, and Libya already have, or are vigorously developing, such capabilities.

Mr. Speaker, Communist China already has this capability. In 1998, the Central Intelligence Agency confirmed 13 of China's 18 long-range nuclear-tipped missiles were targeted at U.S. cities. In 1996, Chinese officials threatened to launch those missiles at American targets, including Los Angeles, if our Nation intervened

on behalf of Taiwan during China's threatening missile tests over that nation. One official remarked that Americans "care more about Los Angeles than they do Tai Pei." Adding fuel to the fire, U.S. defense intelligence officials just revealed plans by China to build a second short-range missile base near Taiwan, thereby allowing it to target the island's primary military and civilian areas.

The communist Chinese have also profited greatly from successful espionage missions within the United States. Intelligence officials have confirmed China is beginning work on a new strategic submarine built specifically to target U.S. nuclear forces. The subs will reportedly carry missiles armed with miniaturized warheads modeled after American designs developed at Los Alamos then stolen by spies. These smaller, advanced warheads will also allow China to place multiple warheads on new Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs). Such missiles would have the range to target not only Los Angeles, Mr. Speaker, but also more "target-rich" cities like Washington, Denver, Chicago, and New York.

It should be all the more alarming then that President Yeltsin's perceived threat of nuclear retaliation was delivered from Beijing. Yeltsin emerged just minutes before his pronouncement from a meeting with Chinese President Jiang Zemin, who stood confidently beside Yeltsin, both physically and figuratively. Relations between the two nuclear powers have warmed significantly over the last few years, and that alone should be cause for concern to an American left undefended from missile attack.

No matter the source and nature of the threat, however, this much is clear: America must build a National Missile Defense system as soon as technologically possible. Last year, in spite of the general reluctance of Bill Clinton and his administration, the House and Senate both overwhelmingly passed legislation to do so, albeit substantially watered-down in order to appease White House objections.

But in order to ensure the timely and successful completion of this most important of tasks, America must stand united in our efforts. Otherwise, Mr. Speaker, if Russia ever follows through with its nuclear threats, all we'll be able to do is fire back, and kiss our planet goodbye.

CONGRATULATING LOURDES T.
PANGELINAN

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Ms. Lourdes T. Pangelinan for her selection as Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). The SPC is an organization dedicated to the advancement of the Pacific Region's active membership in the global community through the protection and promotion of mutual interests. The organization strives to emphasize the unique interests of the island nations comprising the region. With these objectives on top of their agenda, the SPC would surely reap great benefits from Lou Pangelinan's abilities, knowledge and vision. Lou is the first Chamorro and the first woman to occupy the SPC's top post.

Born on the island of Guam, Lou is the daughter of Maria Camacho Taitano Pangelinan and Jose Guerrero Pangelinan. She grew up in the village of Asan and attended the Adelup Elementary School. In 1966, the family moved to Castro Valley California where Lou attended the Castro Valley High School. She was later admitted to the University of California at Davis, California, where she became a University of California Board of Regents Scholar and a California State Scholar. While working toward a Bachelor of Arts degree, Lou took part in a study abroad program in France focusing on political science and the French language. Upon graduation, she was a fluent speaker of Chamorro, English and French.

In 1977, Lou returned to Guam to work as a reporter for the Pacific Daily News. She later served as liaison to Guam's overseas residents and coordinator of federally funded programs from 1979 to 1982. She did this while working as special assistant to the Lieutenant Governor of Guam in his San Francisco, California office. In 1983, Lou worked on national research studies on the effectiveness of U.S. health programs with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Seattle, Washington.

Lou was back on Guam in 1984, serving as executive assistant to then Guam Senator Joseph Ada. While employed by the senator's legislative office, she was placed in charge of developing legislation, conducting research, disseminating public information, and handling constituent services. Upon Senator Ada's election as governor of Guam in 1994, Lou was appointed his chief of staff. In addition to being the governor's chief assistant on policy development and implementation, she also had purview over the Cabinet and the governor's staff.

Between January 1995, and February 1996, Lou was employed by the Superior Court of Guam. At this point she has served in top level management positions in all three branches of the island's government. As the Deputy Director/Director of Communications, she managed the operations of Guam's trial court. In addition, she facilitated judges' requirements and acted as liaison to the Guam Legislature on budget and policy matters. During her service with the government of Guam, she represented the island in key meetings and hearings before the United States Congress and the United Nations Committee on Decolonization.

Lou's involvement with the SPC dates back to the early years of the organization's development. Representing the island of Guam, she served as Chairperson of the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations in May 1989. For the past decade, she played an active part in the organization's growth. Her command of the French language, her vision, her technical knowledge, and her leadership capabilities made her an ideal candidate for a leadership post within the SPC. Prior to landing the top job, she served as the organization's deputy director general. Upon becoming a member of SPC's executive team, Lou was given oversight over the Social Resources Division, Support Services Programme and Finance/Administration. As Director General, Lou is in the best position to facilitate and convey the island of Guam's commitment and support as the SPC charts its course for the new millennium.

Through her distinguished career and outstanding achievements, Lou has brought recognition upon herself, the island of Guam, and its people. Having been granted the honor and opportunity to be instrumental in the future growth and development of the Pacific Region, I am sure that Lou will successfully meet the challenge. She has always made us proud.

I join her family in celebrating her extraordinary accomplishments. On behalf of the people of Guam, I extend my sincerest congratulations to Lou on this recent accomplishment. I wish her and the SPC continued success in the years to come,

TRIBUTE TO STEVE LEW

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we rise to pay tribute to our good friend, Steve Lew, who has just completed a two-year term as Chairman of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association. Steve is a man of immense charm, business smarts and considerable political skills. He is, in short, a born leader. He will be sorely missed at VICA.

During his two-year tenure as chairman, VICA became much more active in state, local and federal affairs. Steve expanded VICA's sphere of influence; the organization now covers eight congressional districts, six State Senate districts and ten Assembly districts. He made a point of attending many meetings of the various government committees.

In 1999, Steve led VICA's year-long 50th anniversary celebration, which included a new graphics campaign, newsletter, logo and website. He also helped spur a 25 percent rise in revenues to VICA, which enabled the organization to initiate new advocacy programs.

In 1975, Steve took a job with Universal Studios, where he has held several executive positions. These include Vice President, Government and External Affairs, Universal Studios, Inc; Senior Vice President, Universal Studios Recreation Group and President and CEO, Universal Studios Florida.

In addition to his professional duties and his work with VICA, Steve is Chair of the City of Los Angeles Volunteer Advisory Council, a member of the Executive Board of the Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley and Past President of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce.

We ask our colleagues to join us in saluting Steve Lew, whose commitment to helping business and his dedication to the community are second to none. We are honored to be his friends.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF AGING
ORGANIZATIONS: PRINCIPLES
FOR MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION
DRUG LEGISLATION

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, following is a letter I submit for the RECORD that was sent to

Members of Congress by the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations signed by 32 groups, on the principles that Medicare prescription drug legislation should meet.

If one compares the principles with the various bills that have been introduced, it is clear that the President's proposal; the Stark-Dingell-Kennedy proposal meet the criteria.

All others bills that I am aware of do not meet the criteria—they are either means-tested, unaffordable, don't provide catastrophic protection, fail to improve quality, do not buy drugs cost-effectively, and so forth.

The LCAO has performed a valuable service in laying out what good pharmaceutical health insurance policy should be.

Congress should proceed accordingly.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF AGING

ORGANIZATIONS,

HORACE B. DEETS, CHAIRMAN,

FEBRUARY 7, 2000.

U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The undersigned members of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO) look forward to working with the Congress on the creation of a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

As you consider current proposals and draft new prescription drug proposals, we would like you to consider the following issues that are of the highest priority to our organizations and the millions of Americans that we represent.

BENEFITS

Medicare should guarantee access to a voluntary prescription drug benefit as a part of its defined benefit package.

Medicare's prescription drug benefit should provide comprehensive coverage, including the most current, effective, and individually appropriate drug therapies.

Medicare's contribution toward the cost of the prescription drug benefit must keep pace

with the increase in prescription drug costs and not be tied to budgetary caps.

Adding a Medicare prescription drug benefit must not reduce access to other Medicare benefits.

COVERAGE

The Medicare prescription drug benefit should be available to all Medicare eligible older Americans and persons with disabilities, regardless of income or health status.

The Medicare prescription drug benefit must be voluntary and must provide safeguards against the erosion of current prescription drug coverage provided by others.

AFFORDABILITY

The financing of a new Medicare prescription drug benefit should protect all beneficiaries from burdensome out-of-pocket expenses and affordable cost sharing, particularly low-income beneficiaries.

The new benefit must protect individuals from extraordinary expenses for prescription drugs.

The government subsidy must be sufficient to guard against risk selection and to provide an attractive benefit design.

Sufficient subsidies should be provided for low-income beneficiaries to ensure that they have access to the benefit.

ADMINISTRATION

The new prescription drug benefit should be efficiently managed, include appropriate cost-containment, and reflect the purchasing of the Medicare beneficiary pool.

QUALITY

The new Medicare prescription drug benefit must meet rigorous standards for quality of care, including appropriate monitoring and quality assurance activities.

The Medicare program should work to prevent the overuse, underuse, and misuse of prescription drugs.

We request that you carefully consider the issues presented above as you develop your

Medicare prescription drug proposals. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the Medicare program is strengthened by your efforts.

Sincerely,

AARP; AFSCME Retiree Program, Alzheimer's Association, American Association for International Aging, American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, American Federation of Teachers Program on Retirement and Retirees, American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, Asociacion Nacional Pro Personas Mayores, Association for Gerontology and Human Development in Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Association of Jewish Aging Services, B'nai B'rith Center for Senior Housing and Services, Eldercare America, Inc., Families, USA, The Gerontological Society of America, Gray Panthers, National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, National Asian Pacific Center on Aging, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, National Association of Foster Grandparent Program Directors, National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs, National Association of Retired and Senior Volunteer Program Directors, Inc., National Association of Senior Companion Project Directors, National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs, National Association of State Units on Aging, National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc., National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, National Council of Senior Citizens, National Council on the Aging, Inc., National Hispanic Council on Aging, National Indian Council on Aging, Inc., National Osteoporosis Foundation, National Senior Citizen Law Center, Older Women's League